

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COUNCIL

SUMMATION OF MINUTES  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

**I. Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Carl Zager

Suzann Owen

Jesse Strycker

Eric Ost

Others present:

Michael White, CATS

Justin Goodwin

Phil Meyer, WTIU

Rick Dietz came in after roll call.

**Public:**

**II. Approval of Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve. August 7, 2007 minutes will be approved at the October 2, 2007 meeting.

**Old Business**

**A). Rewriting of the Telecommunications Ordinance**

**IV. Public Comment**

No one from the public was present.

## **Reports and Announcements**

### **A.) BTC Members**

Owen wanted to mention the possibility of Wi-Fi in Bloomington though there is not a real proposal for this as of yet there has been some talk by companies, such as EarthLink, regarding installing Wi-Fi in certain communities but EarthLink has withdrawn from that idea since the installation and the upkeep will fall into their laps and not the local businesses that they install the Wi-Fi. Chicago has withdrawn their idea for Wi-Fi as well. There have been questions as to why Bloomington does not have it yet; right now it is just in the talking phase. Ost stated that it is hard to read what the true problem is with Wi-Fi but that maybe commercial entities may not see a profit in doing this in communities if they are expected to provide access and upkeep with this.

Ost stated that at the August 14, 2007 special meeting that the TCC at the Monroe County Library a lot of the conversation revolved around the PEG Channels. Ost had a letter from Rick Dietz that covered the PEG survey forms that were completed by Michael White and Phil Meyer; Ost presented the letter to the TCC. Ost stated that the PEG Channels, according to the letter, should be easily accessible to the public and will not be relegated to a second class status in receiving and viewing them.

### **B.) Insight Communications**

**The report is in the official record.**

No one from Insight was present, per their Governmental relations Wendy Henry is no longer obligated to come to the TCC meetings since the franchise is now a state franchise.

Ost stated he would like a report from Wendy, or Insight, regarding the Comcast take over that is coming up very soon and wondered the possibility of this happening.

### **C.) CATS**

**The report is in the official record.**

Michael White was present. He presented the August report to the council.

CATS 2008 monies will be in a budget line all of its own opposed to being in the library general fund or in the funds to update the library. Owen asked, since Ms. Gray resigned, if the interim director has demonstrated any interest in the CATS operation and what her previous relationship was with the library. White stated that Sarah Laughlin has stepped in as the interim director and has been very helpful to CATS in the past but White is still going to have a sit down with Ms. Laughlin and be sure that they are on the same page regarding CATS. Busick stated that Ms. Laughlin has been in Bloomington a very long time and looks forward to working with her regarding CATS and other things.

Strycker asked if the Sony robotic cameras would allow for someone to take it out for a day in the park for instance or just and about at festivals. White stated that they could be available and that these cameras are great for being unobtrusively placed at performances to catch shots that their cameras would not normally get.

### **C.) WTIU/TIU2**

Phil Meyer was present. He presented the WTIU/TIU2 report to the council.

Meyer stated that they have been involved with Rick Dietz and AT&T to get TIU2's signal out to AT&T and they have more flexibility than CATS and are deferring to Michael White and CATS regarding this discussion and getting this done. Meyer stated that they are trying to avoid a great deal of expense to deliver the signal so the question becomes when does the content stop and the carrier pick it up but they can deliver it in any format that is requested. The expense incurred is the big question at this time. Meyer stated that they are waiting for CATS to take the lead on the type of format.

Busick asked when TIU2 become a digital broadcast. Meyer stated that he did not have a specific date but it was early 2006.

### **E.) Bloomington Digital Underground**

There was not a recent meeting so there was nothing to report at meeting time.

Busick asked Dietz if he had anything to report on the revision of the Telecommunications Ordinance. Dietz stated that he did not have anything to report.

Busick asked Dietz if he had any input on Wi-Fi for Bloomington. Dietz stated that for the time being there are only preliminary discussions going on regarding Wi-Fi.

Dietz wanted to thank the council for all the hard work and collaboration they do for the community regarding video services and keeping the expectations high for the services.

Owen asked Dietz if he was also meeting with AT&T, he stated he was.

Zager asked who in the IURC the City works with. Dietz stated there is not a certain person he keeps in contact with though Beth Rhodes and he have been keeping contact via email regarding franchise questions. Zager asked if the council could recommend a method that cities and counties could have input regarding franchising processes. Dietz stated he was unaware of other communities that were going to lengths that the City of Bloomington were going to so that the video providers who hold a state franchise are being held up to a high bar.

Zager wanted to thank Dietz for all the help and work that he does and is doing regarding all of the franchise changes.

### **F.) AT&T**

No one was present from ATT.

Busick stated that AT&T was still not providing PEG Channels to their UVerse subscribers and there is still an attempt at trying to get a date that these channels would be available since AT&T is still not complying. Meyer stated he has been in contact with Jim Tackett and Rick Dietz and that there is a walk through for CATS and WTIU coming up with AT&T within the next week.

Owen requested that AT&T should possibly submit some kind of a status report to the council if they are not going to come to the meetings then the council will have something to discuss at the meetings if there is any new information available.

## **III. Old Business**

### **A.) The role of the BTC.**

#### **IV. New Business**

Ost asked that the council draft a letter for the council to sign regarding what they expect and recommend from AT&T and the importance of PEG Channels. Ost made the motion for the letter. Busick asked who the letter is to be addressed to and Ost stated it should go to the Mayor, City Council and the Board of Public Works. Busick brought forth the motion for the letter. Strycker seconded. Busick asked when the letter is to be drafted, Ost stated by the end of the week. All in favor. 5-0-0.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council is set for Tuesday October 2, 2007 at 7:30 in the Council Chambers.